

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

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S E C R E T STATE 199719

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: BILATERAL WITH MOROCCO

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION: FM BENHIMA (MOROCCO)

OCTOBER 5, 1973: 3:30 PM;

35A WALDORF

1. PARTICIPANTS: MOROCCO: FM BENHIMA

AMBASSADOR TO THE US SENOUSI

US: DAVID NEWSOM, ASSISTANT SECRETARY

FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS

PETER RODMAN, NSC STAFF

2. SUMMARY: IN BILATERAL WITH SECRETARY OCTOBER 5 FOREIGN

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MINISTER BENHIMA OF MOROCCO EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF
APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION AT MILITARY COOPERATION, AND URGED US ATTENTION
TO PROBLEMS IN MAGHREB AND MIDDLE EAST.

3. FOLLOWING ARE MORE DETAILED HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATION.

4. REFERRING TO USEFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH SECRETARY ROGERS AND DR. KISSINGER DURING EARLIER VISIT, FOREIGN MINISTER SAID KING HASSAN STILL CONCERNED THAT LEVEL OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE NOT SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY RETENTION US FACILITY AT KENITRA. NEWSOM EXPLAINED WE HAD GIVEN GOM FIGURE OF CURRENT LEVEL, BUT HAD NOT YET SEEN FIVE YEAR PLAN. WE EXPECTED RECEIVE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND REVIEW PLAN AND WOULD DO WHAT WE COULD. SECRETARY EMPHASIZED LIMITATIONS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND, PARTICULARLY, PL-480. BENHIMA ACKNOWLEDGED LATTER AND SAID MOROCCO SEEKING GRAIN ON OPEN MARKET BUT HAD NOT YET FOUND ENOUGH. IN BRIEF ASIDE HE MENTIONED GENERAL SATISFACTION AT PROGRESS IN MILITARY COOPERATION.

5. SAYING HE WAS RAISING SUBJECT WITH SECRETARY AT SPECIAL REQUEST OF KING, BENHIMA MENTIONED MOROCCO'S DEEP CONCERN OVER CONTINUED TRANSIT OF ARMS FROM LIBYA ACROSS ALGERIA INTO MOROCCO. FIRST GROUP SOME MONTHS BEFORE HAD BEEN CAPTURED, TRIED, AND EXECUTED. NEW GROUP HAD BEEN DISCOVERED JUST TWO WEEKS AGO, SIMILARLY OUTFITTED. ARMS WERE OF SOVIET ORIGIN, VIA EGYPT TO LIBYA. BOUMEDIENNE PROFESSED DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO, BUT MOROCCO COULD NOT BELIEVE ALGERIANS WERE UNAWARE OF SUCH TRANSIT. HE PROVIDED SECRETARY WITH MOROCCAN INTELLIGENCE REPORT.

6. BENHIMA THEN TURNED TO WHAT HE CALLED DISTURBING DEVELOPMENT IN WHICH LIBYA, TUNISIA, AND ALGERIA WERE DISCUSSING SOME FORM OF MAGHREBIAN ASSOCIATION, BUT EXCLUDING MOROCCO. HE ASKED WHETHER UNITED STATES COULD NOT INTERVENE, PERHAPS BY SPEAKING TO ALGERIANS. NEWSOM SAID HE DOUBTED US WOULD HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE ON ALGERIANS, EXCEPT IN ECONOMIC MATTERS. HE SUGGESTED THAT TUNISIANS MIGHT BE IMPORTANT LINK IN VIEW OF THEIR DESIRE TO WIN
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LIBYA AWAY FROM EGYPT. HE SAID US COULD MORE EASILY TALK TO TUNISIANS. (IN SEPTTEL DEPARTMENT WILL SEEK VIEWS ADDRESSEE POSTS THIS QUESTION.)

7. BENHIMA'S NEXT POINT WAS SPANISH SAHARA IN WHICH HE RAISED POSSIBILITY US APPROACH TO SPANISH. SECRETARY MADE NO COMMITMENT. BENHIMA EXPLAINED SPANISH NOW THINKING IN TERMS INDEPENDENCE THIS TERRITORY. THIS MADE NO SENSE IN VIEW SMALL POPULATION AND LIKELIHOOD ALGERIAN AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH MIGHT BECOME INVOLVED. HE POINTED OUT DANGER OF PERMITTING ALGERIA TO HAVE ACCESS TO ATLANTIC, THUS ISOLATING MOROCCO. SECRETARY ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS INTERESTING AND SIGNIFICANT POINT.

8. FINAL POINT ON BENHIMA'S AGENDA WAS MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID ARABS WANTED US THINK OF ARAB PROBLEMS, TO USE INFLUENCE, TO MAINTAIN DIALOGUE WITH THEM AND TO SUPPORT PEACE WITH DIGNITY AND JUSTICE. SECRETARY SAID US WAS WILLING TO DO THESE THINGS, BUT ARABS, IN TURN, HAD TO BE READY FOR GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS. THERE IS ALSO QUESTION OF INTERPRETATION OF TERMS. REFERRING TO HIS EXPERIENCE WITH CHINESE, SECRETARY SAID HIS EFFORTS WOULD NOT HAVE SUCCEEDED IF CHOU EN LAI HAD INSISTED ON GUARANTEE OF ULTIMATE CONCLUSION. ARABS ON OTHER HAND INSISTED THAT US GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL GET THEIR FULL DEMANDS EVEN BEFORE PROCESS STARTS. US CANNOT PLAY USEFUL ROLE UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. IF ARABS ARE PREPARED FOR GENUINE NEGOTIATION WITHOUT INSISTING ON GUARANTEEING OUTCOME AT OUTSET, US RECOGNIZES URGENCY, APPROACHES WITH GOOD WILL, AND IS READY TO PLAY ROLE, SERVING AS NO ONE'S SPECIAL ADVOCATE, IN SEEKING PEACE. US WILL BE MOTIVATED BY ITS OWN BROAD INTERESTS. ARABS MUST APPROACH, NOT AS PROPHETS FROM DESERT, BUT IN STAGES AND IN DETAIL.
KISSINGER

SECRET

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